

## WASHINGTON CITY.

THURSDAY MORNING, JAN. 14, 1858.

—Mr. THOMAS J. JAMES, of Philadelphia, is our general traveling agent, assisted by JAMES DUNN, JOHN COLLINS, J. HANCOCK, EDWARD W. WILSON, JOHN R. DUNN, E. A. EVANS, R. S. JAMES, T. ANDERSON, A. DAVIS, R. T. BROWN.

## OFFICIAL.

## APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.

By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.  
Nathan Clifford, of Maine, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, in place of Benjamin R. Curtis, resigned.  
SURVIVORS OF THE CRUISE.  
C. Bailey Thornbury, for the port of Hickman, Kentucky; vice Frank Rouhae, deceased; and Thomas W. Fleming, for the port of Augusta, Georgia.

## CONGRESS—WEDNESDAY.

SENATE.—Mr. Doxblitt introduced a joint resolution directing the presentation of a medal to Commodore Hiram Paulding. After the usual morning business, the Senate resumed the consideration of the joint resolution to extend and define the authority of the President, under the act approved June 16, 1857, entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to promote the efficiency of the navy,' in respect to dropped and retired officers." The provision submitted by Mr. Hunter, that the number of officers on the active list shall not be increased, was reconsidered and rejected; when the joint resolution was read a third time and passed. Mr. Fitch made a personal explanation in reference to the proceedings of the late Indiana democratic State convention; and after some remarks by Mr. Douglas and Mr. Hale upon the same subject, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, in the chair, and resumed the consideration of the pending question, being the reference of the President's message to the standing committees. Mr. Curtis, of Iowa, finished his remarks, urging the construction of a railroad to the Pacific, instead of seeking to open a route across the Nicaraguan isthmus. Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, followed, sustaining the views of the President on the Nicaragua question. Mr. Pottle, of New York, urged the same views. Mr. Lamar, of Mississippi, advocated the admission of Kansas with the Lecompton constitution. Mr. Montgomery, of Pennsylvania, followed, also in support of the President's views. Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, then obtained the floor, the committee rose, and the House adjourned.

## HON. JAMES B. CLAY, OF KENTUCKY.

This distinguished son of a distinguished sire made his debut in the House of Representatives yesterday. His remarks were listened to with great attention by the House and the audience. A sketch of his remarks will be found in its appropriate place in the congressional report. The remarkable fact in connection with the speech is the defence of a democratic administration by the son of the honored leader of the once powerful whig party. Mr. Clay made a most excellent impression, and we take the liberty of offering to him our congratulations.

## JUDGE CLIFFORD.

In publishing to-day the appointment of Nathan Clifford, of Maine, to be an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, we take pleasure in copying from the Boston Post the following notice of his nomination. The favorable opinion of the Post on this appointment is fully in accordance with the universal tone concerning it of the democratic press of New England. While Judge Clifford, by the general consent of those who know him best, possesses the two great qualities necessary to a just discharge of the duties of his new position, of integrity and capacity, he has, also, that other requisite, which in this day ought not lightly to be regarded, of possessing sound constitutional opinions. His appointment, we believe, will fully vindicate its wisdom by its results, and we concur with the Post in predicting for him complete success in his judicial career.

THE ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.—The announcement of the nomination to the Senate by the President of Hon. Nathan Clifford, of Maine, to be associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States in place of Hon. B. R. Curtis, resigned, will be received, we think, with general satisfaction, not only throughout this judicial circuit, but throughout the United States. Mr. Clifford is fitted for the discharge of the high trusts to which he has been called both by habit of mind and experience in affairs. He happily combines the qualities of a lawyer, trained to aid in the administration of justice between individuals, and those of a statesman, accustomed to move in that higher domain of jurisprudence where especially are considered and determined the rights of nations and governments. For the proper and acceptable discharge of the functions of judge of the Supreme Court of the United States there is required a kind of qualification different from that demanded in a judge of a court of one of the States. The training to which we refer can be had only in the executive department of the government. There alone can adequate knowledge be obtained in relation to the practical working of the executive system. In all these respects Mr. Clifford has had rare opportunities for observation and professional attainment, which he has not failed to improve.

Mr. Clifford is about fifty-three years of age, and, being in firm health, has thus passed the period of the full maturity of his powers. He was born and reared in the State of New Hampshire, received there that excellent early academic training so peculiar to all New England, and, after admission to practice in all the courts of that State, commenced professional business in the town of Newfield, in Maine. He was for a long time attorney general of that State. After twelve and more years of assiduous engagement in the duties of his profession, his talents were directed into the channel of politics by election, as the candidate of the democratic party, to be member of the Twenty-sixth Congress, where he signified himself, among other efforts, by an elaborate discussion of questions raised in the New Jersey case.

In the Twenty-seventh Congress his speeches on the tariff and distribution bill furnish high testimony of the soundness of his political principles and the character of his mind. In 1846 Mr. Clifford was appointed by President Polk to be Attorney General of the United States, and the fourth volume of the Opinions of Attorneys General contains ample proof of the manner in which he discharged the very delicate and responsible duties of law officer of the federal government. Subsequently, in the year 1848, we think—Mr. C. was appointed to be minister plenipotentiary of the United States to the government of Mexico. In all these several paths of public duty he has been enabled to acquire by active experience in affairs that which will be of incalculable value in the new sphere of responsibility to which he has been called by President Buchanan. Mr. Clifford has indefatigable industry, sound judgment, a mind ready to analyze and arrange, and what Pinney says "is a great part of justice"—unflinching patience. We predict for him complete success.

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—We publish to-day a detailed report of the first day's proceedings of the United States Agricultural Society, which is now holding its sixth annual session at the Smithsonian Institution. Agriculture is the prominent occupation of the country, and it augurs well for its advancement that those interested in its prosperity in twenty-four States and Territories have sent delegates to this annual congress of cultivators, where opinions are interchanged, discoveries are discussed, and men of science mingle their learning with the practical experience of the working yeomen. The address of the president, which we give in full, presents a perspicuous view of the extensive operations carried on under the auspices of the society during the past year, and we regret to see that he declines a re-election. The proceedings to-day promise to be of unusual interest.

Business is almost thrown aside. We must away to cheer the inner man; and, awaiting anxiously news from home, we pray you a happy new year.

## THE DETROIT DEMOCRATIC MEETING.

Our respected contemporary of the *National Intelligencer* having intimated yesterday that, in publishing in the Union of the 7th ult. certain resolutions adopted at a meeting of the democrats of Detroit, we had given "currency to fictitious proceedings," which were never voted on and never had a real existence," it is due to our readers that we should lay before them the evidence we possess of the genuineness of the proceedings. They appeared in a weekly democratic paper of Detroit, and a copy was forwarded us, simultaneously with the receipt of the paper, by a gentleman from that city, whose reliability cannot be questioned. These evidences were sufficient to satisfy us, even in the face of the paragraph in the *Free Press* purporting to give the action of the meeting, that the Detroit *Vindicator* contained the genuine proceedings.

As the lawyers say, we might rest our case here, but we choose to present other evidences in our possession as to the genuineness of the proceedings in question. This meeting was held on the evening of the 21st of December. During the previous week a meeting had been held which did not approve of the President's position relative to the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution. Dissatisfaction with the action of this meeting caused another to be held on the 21st of December, in compliance with the following call: "Democrats in favor of sustaining the administration of James Buchanan are requested to meet at the City Hall on Monday evening, December 21st, at 7 o'clock." The object of the meeting was distinctly stated, the call received the signatures of a very large number of persons, and the *Free Press* describes it as "a tremendous democratic meeting." It would be a reasonable presumption, even in the absence of direct evidence, that the objects mentioned in the call had been carried out. Those who deny the correctness of the proceedings as we have published them must, therefore, settle the question with the very large number of persons who united in the call, and who are represented to have participated in the proceedings.

As cumulative evidence, we add here the Detroit correspondence of the *Enquirer* and *Herald*, published at Grand Rapids, Michigan, which fully explains the manner in which the surreptitious proceedings were substituted for the genuine.

DETROIT, DEC. 23, 1857.

The monster meeting of the democrats, sustaining the doctrine of the President's message, on Monday night, was a complete triumph. The resolutions adopted were calm, dignified, and thorough endorsements of the message, and of the administration of Mr. Buchanan. It is deeply regretted that the *Free Press* should have suppressed the publication of the proceedings of this meeting, and substituted the proceedings of a few Douglas factionists, held after the regularly-called meeting had adjourned, and when but a mere handful were left in the hall. Mr. Buchanan's friends would have been glad to have had their proceedings published in the *Free Press*, but all the readers of that sheet might have an opportunity to know the true position of the national democracy of the city of Detroit upon the Kansas policy of the administration; but, as that could not be, they accepted the offer of the publisher of the Detroit *Vindicator*, a staunch democratic paper, and had them published in that paper, a large edition of which was printed and mailed to all parts of the United States.

These proceedings show that the democracy of this city stand upon the true national platform of popular sovereignty. The Ironides democrats of Detroit will never flinch one jot or tittle in their support of Mr. Buchanan's administration so long as they can see so much in it to admire, and nothing to condemn, as the result thus far has demonstrated.

We confess to a certain degree of surprise at the avowal of the *National Intelligencer* that it takes "no interest" in "the squabbles of the democracy," as it elects to designate the controversy which has arisen among democrats upon the propriety of admitting Kansas into the Union with the Lecompton constitution. We have thought all along that our contemporary took a most active interest in this affair, and have very naturally attributed such interest to its own admitted desire to send the whole democratic party to "coventry." We sympathize with its unhappy inability to find even "good whigs" "to put up;" yet we cannot construe its "best wishes" to mean anything less than a readiness "to pull down" the democratic party, even though it can find nothing suitable "to put up" in its place. We submit, further, that the position of the democratic party, and of all sections of it, is perfectly understood throughout the whole country. A careful examination of the columns of the *Intelligencer* for the last three months has only satisfied us that it is opposed to the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution, as we can find no word or intimation of its own in favor of such admission; but, on the contrary, numerous indications of its hostility. Such is our inference as to its position. As to ourselves, we are under no necessity to indulge in any special professions with regard to the duty we have to perform; we wish to serve the interests of the democratic party by disseminating its principles, and we strive to promote them by all fair means in our power.

## A HIGH COMPLIMENT.

On the occasion of the celebration of the eighth of January by the Young Men's National Democratic Association of Cincinnati, the following was the regular toast:

"The President of the United States: A Washington in purity of purpose, a Jefferson in devotion to democracy, and a Jackson in determined execution."

When it was read, (says the Cincinnati *Enquirer*), the three deafening and enthusiastic shouts that followed gave an assurance that the President still retained, unabated and undivided, the confidence of the association, as well as the other democrats who were present. And the brotherly feeling that marked the intercourse of the hundreds in attendance demonstrated that the Kansas differences had not yet begun even to sow the seeds of alienation. The celebration was, in every respect, a decided success; in the material of the feast, in the sentiments and speeches and unbounded good feeling, nothing was wanting.

## UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We publish to-day a detailed report of the first day's proceedings of the United States Agricultural Society, which is now holding its sixth annual session at the Smithsonian Institution. Agriculture is the prominent occupation of the country, and it augurs well for its advancement that those interested in its prosperity in twenty-four States and Territories have sent delegates to this annual congress of cultivators, where opinions are interchanged, discoveries are discussed, and men of science mingle their learning with the practical experience of the working yeomen. The address of the president, which we give in full, presents a perspicuous view of the extensive operations carried on under the auspices of the society during the past year, and we regret to see that he declines a re-election. The proceedings to-day promise to be of unusual interest.

## COMMERCIAL REFORMS IN FRANCE.

Reforms in the tariff regulations of France progress gradually, though as yet they have not even touched the fundamental errors upon which the entire structure of French commercial legislation has rested, undisturbed and unshaken, for so many ages. Every month or so we read, in the official journal of Paris, one or more decrees relaxing the rigor of existing regulations, or totally abolishing others which have either accomplished their temporary purposes or demonstrated their disastrous effects upon the industry and commerce of the empire. The latest of this latter class which has come to our notice appears among the imperial decrees published in the *Moniteur* in the early part of last month, which enacts that "export duties shall be suppressed" on all articles except walnut-tree wood, millstones, grindstones, and unprepared skins, on which a considerable modification of the duties is ordered, and except "those hereinafter enumerated." Unfortunately, on glancing over "those hereinafter enumerated," we found it to contain no less than sixty-four articles, and amongst them most of those in which the United States would feel any special interest. In the unfavorable list are flag silk, pasteboard, hats, bottles in crystal or glass (empty or full), horns, brandies, bark for tanning, essence of turpentine, fruits, mercury, wines, perfumery, porcelain, dyed silks, ordinary modes, &c. On many of these articles the export duty is positively a libel on a government so eminently distinguished in European civilization, and that on the rest has no other effect than to oppress the industry and check the commerce of the French empire.

## DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION OF KENTUCKY.

The democratic State convention of Kentucky was held at Frankfort on the 8th inst. Gen. Lucius Deane, of Harrison county, was chosen president, and the following gentlemen vice presidents: G. W. Silverthorn, Robert S. Russell, Joseph H. Lewis, Daniel P. White, Benjamin Spaulding, T. T. Garrard, Captain Heady, B. B. Taylor, John L. Scott, and Daniel Moore. Clinton McCarty and all the democratic editors of the State who were present acted as secretaries. The convention was one of the largest ever held in the State, and a great degree of harmony prevailed throughout. Hon. Rankin R. Revell, of Owen county, on the seventh ballot, was nominated for clerk of the court of appeals, that being the only State officer to be elected the present year.

The convention adopted by a large majority the following resolutions, reported from the committee on resolutions, of which Hon. Linn Boyd was the chairman:

## RESOLUTIONS.

The convention of the Kentucky democracy assembled at Frankfort, January 8, 1858, in view of the interesting and important subjects of a political character which enlist the attention of the country, and desirous of giving expression to their opinions in the premises: Therefore, Resolved, 1. That we affirm the solemn principle of unanimity adopted by the national democracy in the convention at Cincinnati, held in June, 1856, as fully expressive of our views and aims in all matters to which they relate, and we hold that whatever questions of a doubtful or disturbing nature, calculated to interrupt the harmony of the democratic party, are presented to us, we will, in the first place, endeavor to settle them by the recurrence to the first principles of that party and construction of them according to their obvious meaning and import, is the only safe rule by which we may guide our conduct, and appreciate the services of those we trust in all matters of State and federal legislation.

2. That we avail ourselves of this the first opportunity which has been presented to the democracy of Kentucky to congratulate the people of our own Union upon the election of James Buchanan and John C. Breckinridge to the presidency and vice presidency of the United States; and we take this occasion to express our deliberate conviction that a love for the Union and approval of the platform of the democracy are the chief causes to which the country will attribute our success in the elections of 1856.

3. That we have undiminished confidence in the patriotism and wisdom of our distinguished Chief Magistrate, and believe that the views expressed by him, in his first annual message to the Congress of the United States in reference to the admission of the State of Kansas into the federal Union, are wise, patriotic, and just.

4. Approving, as the Kentucky democracy do, the principles embodied in the organic laws establishing the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, as just, necessary, and proper, we cordially acquiesce in the doctrines stated and maintained by the Supreme Court of the United States in their decision of the Dred Scott case; whereby the democratic principle of non-intervention by Congress with domestic slavery in the Territories has been authoritatively considered and confirmed by the court of highest resort; the rights of the people of all the States placed on an equal footing; and geographical lines coinciding with a marked principle, religious or political, pronounced to be at variance with the letter and spirit of the constitution of the United States; and we hold, further, that all efforts of abolitionists, or other persons, to weaken the force of that opinion, or defeat the ends it has in view, are unwise, anti-republican, and revolutionary.

5. Resolved, by the Kentucky democracy, that with the day on which this convention meets, we would again express our high appreciation of the character and public services of that illustrious patriot, soldier, and statesman—Gen. Andrew Jackson.

Hon. C. A. Wickliffe then offered the following resolution: which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we acknowledge with pleasure and pride the services and co-operation of the national whigs who have aided the democratic party in the support of those cherished principles, upon which the stability of the Union depends, and the equal rights of its citizens are based.

## GOV. LIGON'S MESSAGE.

Gov. Ligon sent in his message to the Maryland legislature on the 8th inst. It is a long and ably-written document, and is confined, for the most part, to the discussion of questions of State interests alone. He condemns, in strong language, the present banking system of Maryland, disapproves of the suspension policy, and suggests "that the specie basis of all banks of issue within the State should be greatly enlarged." In connection with this subject, he says:

"I beg leave to express my cordial approval of the suggestion contained in the recent report of the present Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, that each of the States inaugurate a policy, in conformity with that of the United States, for the collection of its entire revenue in coin. The advantages which would certainly flow from such a practice would be equally enjoyed by the government and the people. It would tend to keep the specie in the country in circulation, and out of the iron custody of the banks. It would exert a most salutary influence over those institutions, and prepare the way for the gradual extinction of the bank paper of the minor denominations from circulation. In short, it would rapidly establish a specie currency, and diffuse in all the avenues of trade and commerce a most healthy and invigorating influence."

"MONEY ORDER" SYSTEM IN THE POST OFFICE.—The annual report of the Postmaster General refers to a plan matured by his predecessor, by which orders can be transmitted by mail for small sums of money, to be paid at such points on the routes at which such orders are due; or, in other words, that postmasters may issue orders upon other postmasters for the payment of such sums as may have been deposited with them. A similar system has been in operation in England for many years. Some measures of this kind will be of the most especially necessary in case the project of abolishing small notes is carried into effect. Specie is too cumbersome for transmission by mail, while the money-order system would be far more preferable in regard to safety. The plan, we think, is a good one. No one would object to the payment of a small sum on the amount thus transferred, when all its advantages are taken into consideration. —*Cincinnati Times*.

## INAUGURATION OF GOVERNOR RUNNELS, TEXAS.

Hon. H. R. Runnels was inaugurated governor of Texas at the capital of that State on the 21st of December last. The Austin State Gazette contains a full account of the inaugural ceremonies, including the valedictory address of the Hon. E. M. Pease, the retiring governor, and the inaugurals of Gov. Runnels and the lieutenant governor, Hon. F. R. Lubbock. They are all well-written, statesmanlike papers, and abound in expressions of devotion to the constitution, the Union, and the rights of the States. Gov. Runnels takes occasion in the course of his inaugural to review the history of the slavery question, commencing with the Missouri controversy, and ending with the Kansas difficulties. We have only room for the following extract—the closing paragraph of his address:

"There is now left but one reasonable hope for preserving the Union, and maintaining the rights of the States in it—and that is upon a rigid adherence to a strict construction of the federal constitution. Our opponents preach hostility to our institutions from every quarter, alike from the pulpit as the hustings. With but single exception, and for the first time, the southern States have marched in line, and congregated upon the platform of the constitution, there to fight the battle for their rights under it. That platform is the same in New England as in Texas. Its adherents there, though overwhelmed by numbers, are standing firmly to the doctrine it teaches. Let us, by our own thorough organization, offer them the aid of our warmest sympathy and cordial co-operation in support of the glorious cause it is their mission to follow. That cause commends itself to our confidence, because, amid the vicissitudes and changes of half a century, it presents the only record unblemished by mutation and change. Only weakened by deflections, time has invariably recovered for it more than its lost strength. If occasional departures from the doctrine of strict construction have occurred, truth and investigation have as invariably combated the error and established it still more firmly in the minds of the American people as the only true and reliable exponent of our institutions. The temper of passion and fanaticism have assailed it hitherto with no other effect than to remove the rubbish with which it was encumbered, and exhibit more clearly the patriotism and virtue of those who remain faithful to its cause. It is at that altar alone that the man of the South discovers the altars of his present and future security, and there alone that patriots can take their honest stand, and preserve to futurity those model institutions, alike the purest, the greatest, and best that have ever entered into the conception of man."

## GRAND DEMOCRATIC RALLY AT ST. LOUIS.

The St. Louis Leader of the 9th brings us the proceedings of a grand rally of the democracy held in that city on the evening of the 8th. The meeting was presided over by Hon. John M. Krum, with Messrs. Daniel H. Donovan, Robert A. Barnes, and J. C. Deganhart as vice presidents, and Messrs. P. B. Garesche and J. H. Carlie as secretaries. Judge Krum, on taking the chair, delivered an eloquent address. A committee of nine appointed to draught resolutions reported the following through their chairman, Mr. Pollard, which were adopted:

In accordance with time-honored custom to commemorate the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans and the name of its hero, the champion of democracy in war as well as in peace, the democracy of St. Louis have Resolved, 1. That in the late national triumph of the democracy, and the elevation of James Buchanan to the presidency, we recognize a new bond of perpetuity to our Union, and we extend our congratulations to the democracy of the entire country for the glorious result, whereby we have rolled back the tide of sectionalism and intolerance which threatened to overwhelm our free institutions.

2. That we congratulate our democratic brethren in those States in which elections have been held since the presidential election, for their noble efforts whereby great and unexampled victories have been achieved, or immense majorities reduced, and especially do we congratulate the democracy of Missouri on the recent triumph in our own State, when a dangerous and wicked coalition of black republicans and disorganizing abolitionists, seeking to perpetuate a sectional party, and attempted to blind the people to the issue before them.

3. That we reaffirm the principles laid down in the late Cincinnati platform and in the platform of our own State convention, and we renew our pledges to maintain those principles, and stand by the time-honored maxims of the democratic party.

4. That we have undiminished confidence in the wisdom, integrity, and patriotism of James Buchanan, President of the United States; that in his administration the government has been true to the democratic faith and policy; and that in the recommendations made in his recent annual message to Congress we recognize a real and devoted to the best interests of the nation, and a loyalty to sound constitutional principles which commend him and his measures to the enthusiastic support of the patriotic and conservative in every portion of our common country.

5. That we fully endorse the President's recommendation of a bankruptcy law for banks and moneyed institutions, so that hereafter corporations created by law shall be compelled by law to discharge faithfully all their obligations, and the money power be subjected to wise, uniform, and inflexible rules for the preservation of the labor and business of the country from the ruinous consequences of the currency, and for the better maintenance of the specie standard in all transactions, as contemplated by the framers of the federal constitution.

6. That we heartily reaffirm our adherence to the principles contained in the Kansas-Nebraska act, and recognize that this great measure is not only just, but justified by the verdict of the American people, but in the Dred Scott decision, has received the solemnly-pronounced sanction of the highest judicial tribunal of the country, and has been endorsed by every department of the government.

7. That the policy recommended by the President for the admission of Kansas as a State commends itself to our approval, as tending to allay that agitation which has so long disturbed the peace and harmony of every section of the country.

8. That we have the highest confidence in the ability and zeal of our democratic delegation in Congress; that we are satisfied in their ability to best interests of the people, and our rights vindicated, and that they will ever be found firm supporters of the administration in its efforts to promote sound principles, and to advocate wise and just measures.

The resolutions, it will be seen, broadly endorse the President's message, and express the fullest confidence in his loyalty, patriotism, and ability. The meeting was addressed by Judge Bowlin and Daniel H. Donovan, esq. The enthusiasm which prevailed (says the Leader) "gave the most encouraging signs of a determination on the part of the democracy to leave the opposition no ground to stand upon."

MAINE GUBERNATORIAL MESSAGE.—Governor Morrill was inaugurated at Augusta on the 7th, and delivered his message. It is a lengthy document, recommending economy in the finances and little legislation; complaining of the State upon its railways, shipping, mechanics, and agricultural resources, but complaining that agriculture has not advanced as rapidly as other departments of industry. The adoption of measures for settling Aroostook is recommended, and also the building of a school for the training of teachers. The liquor question is lengthily treated, and further legislation recommended, but the substance of it is determined upon to be left to the public. A very considerable discussion of Kansas troubles and squatter sovereignty follows the recommendation of an enlargement of the State prison, and concludes the paper.

The New York News, in alluding to the position of the democratic press of that State, in its support of the administration on the Kansas question, says:—

"Of the seventy or eighty democratic papers in New York, not one, we believe, has varied a hair's breadth in its support of the President and of the principles laid down in his unambiguous message on the Kansas question. They are a unit, and stand by the Executives firmly and proudly as when battling for his election. And there they will continue to stand. The democracy of this State have seen nothing as yet calculated to weaken them from the support of one who holds the helm of State with a steady hand, and who is guided by the principles of the constitution and those of the party which placed him in power." —*Cincinnati Times*.

## ILLEGAL EXPEDITIONS.

A correspondent, in the course of a review of the Nicaragua affair, too lengthy for our limited space, refers to some facts in the past history of this country which are of special interest at this time, and to which we invite the attention of the reader:

To show that the doctrine now advanced by Walker's friends in opposition to the President is new, I may be permitted to recall to the mind of the reader an instance of early American history. Who does not recollect the expedition, consisting of three ships and 900 men, organized in New York by Don Francisco Miranda in March, 1806? He was a native of Caracas, in Venezuela, then a Spanish colony. He had distinguished himself under Napoleon in the wars of Europe; and when Spain had been drawn into the vortex of war against France, Miranda determined to make an effort for the liberation of his native land from Spanish thralldom. That expedition sailed; and its defeat by a Spanish fleet on the 28th April, 1806, is also a matter of history. What was the conduct of the administration then? Let the "Father of Democracy"—let the man whose memory lives, a lasting monument of his fame, in the grateful hearts of his countrymen—let Thomas Jefferson speak for himself. Don Valentine de Foronda, minister of Spain at Washington, by authority of his government, complained of the conduct of the United States in permitting Miranda's expedition to sail from their port. In a letter to his Secretary of State, from Monticello, August 16, 1807, giving his views as to the tenor of the answer to be returned to Foronda's complaint, Mr. Jefferson speaks as follows:

"I think it fortunate that this opportunity is given to make a strong declaration of facts—to wit: how far our knowledge of Miranda's objects went, what measures we took to prevent anything further, the negligence of the Spanish agents in not giving notice, the measures we took for punishing those guilty, and our quiet abandonment of those taken by the Spanish."

After his retirement from the cares of office, and being still in correspondence with Foronda, in a letter to this gentleman, under date of October 4, 1809, Mr. Jefferson takes occasion to again refer to the same subject in the following words:

"Your predecessor, soured on a question of etiquette against the administration of this country, wished to impute wrong to them in all their actions, even where he did not believe it himself. In this spirit, he wished it to be believed that we were in unjustifiable co-operation in Miranda's expedition. I solemnly, and on my personal truth and honor, declare to you that this was entirely without foundation, and that there was neither co-operation nor connivance on our part. He informed us he was about to attempt the liberation of his native country from bondage, and we were, of course, obliged to concur at least. He was at once informed that, although we had great cause of complaint against Spain, and even of war, yet, whenever we should think proper to act as her enemy, it should be openly and above-board, and that our hostility should never be exercised by such petty means. We had no suspicion that he expected to engage us here, but merely to purchase military stores. Against this there was no law, nor consequently any authority for us to interpose obstacles." "Although his measures were many days in preparation in New York, we never had the least intimation or suspicion of his engaging men in his enterprise until he was gone," "until it was too late for any measures taken at Washington to prevent their departure. The officer in the customs who participated in this transaction with Miranda we immediately removed, and should have had him and others further punished had it not been for the protection given them by private citizens at New York, in opposition to the government, who, by their impudent falsehoods and calumnies, were able to overcome the minds of the jurors. He assured, sir, that no motive could induce me at this time to make this declaration so gratuitously; were it not founded in secret truth; and I will add, further, that I never did, or countenanced, in public life, a single act inconsistent with the strictest good faith; having never believed that there was any code of morality for a public and another for a private man."

From Mr. Buchanan's last message I clip the following words of Monroe, so appropriately adduced at this time:

"It is of the highest importance to our national character and indispensable to the morality of our citizens that all violations of our neutrality should be prevented. No door should be left open for the evasion of our laws, no opportunity afforded to any who may be disposed to take advantage of it to compromise the interest of the honor of the nation."

The occasion which called forth this appeal from Mr. Monroe to the nation was similar in nature to that which prompted the expedition of Miranda. The several colonies of Spanish America had revolted, and finally declared their determination to throw off the yoke of Spain. They were at that time engaged in their revolutionary war, which ended, like ours, in the declaration and final acknowledgment of their independence. There was the sacred cause of liberty invoking the skillful and victorious American arm to defend and uphold her banner; and yet, being ourselves at peace with Spain, and fully convinced of the moral obligation resting upon us as a nation, the act of April 20, 1818, was passed at the very time when the Central and South American republics were in arms for their independence and liberty, and any expedition to aid and assist them in their "holy war" against Spain was declared illegal.

How much more was it then a violation of law, national and international, for Walker to organize, equip, and arm an expedition within the jurisdiction of the United States for the purpose of what? To invade a country with which we are at peace—to conquer a people to whom he is and always was a foreigner, and who did not desire his return—to subvert a nation which, by their accredited minister here, have requested the government to prevent his departure from this, his landing in their country. If Walker's expedition was not against law, then Morgan's sack of Chagres and Panama (1821) and Van Horn's descent upon Nicaragua (1820) were but legal and laudable enterprises!

THE FOLLOWING series of resolutions, understood to emanate from a joint caucus of the democratic members of the senate and house of representatives of the Ohio legislature, was presented in the senate of that State on the 9th inst. by Mr. Phelps:

"Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That we have entire confidence in the disinterestedness, integrity, and ability of the present Chief Magistrate of these United States, and that his administration commands the unqualified and unanimous support of the people of this State."

"Resolved, That we still adhere to and reaffirm all the doctrines of the Cincinnati platform."

"Resolved, That we regard the refusal of the Lecompton convention to submit the constitution framed by them to the bona fide people of Kansas as unwise and unfortunate for the peace of that Territory, and we hereby declare it to be our duty to oppose every re-construction of a new State, unless otherwise directed by the people themselves, ought to be submitted to the bona fide electors of such Territory for their approval or rejection."

"Resolved, That our senators in Congress are hereby instructed, and our representatives are hereby requested, to vote against the admission of Kansas into the Union under the Lecompton or any other constitution that has not proceeded from the people by a clear delegation of power to the convention to form and put in operation such constitution without a further sanction of the people, or which has not been submitted to and approved by a vote of the people."

"Resolved, That the governor be hereby requested to forward to each of our senators and representatives in Congress a copy of these resolutions forthwith."

On motion of Senator Canfield, of Medina, the resolutions were laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

## GOV. PACKER'S CABINET.

The Lancaster (Pa.) *Intelligencer* learns that Gen. Packer, the incoming executive of that State, has selected the following gentlemen as his cabinet officers:

Secretary of the Commonwealth—Hon. Wm. M. Hoar, of Berks.

Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth—H. L. Diffenbach, esq., of Clinton.

Attorney General—Hon. John C. Knox, of Tioga.

The *Intelligencer* says: "We need only remark that the above mentioned gentlemen are all eminently qualified for the faithful and efficient discharge of the duties which will devolve upon them, and we doubt whether the governor elect could have chosen more competent men anywhere in the State to aid him in his administration."

The inauguration is to take place on Tuesday next, the 19th inst.